DC

40

HARLEY QUINN

HOWARD
BUSTOS
FILARDI

HOT DOG SUMMER!

13+
TEEN

GRACE ELLIS AND
HANNAH TEMPLER
ARE TAKIN' YA BACK TO
SCHOOL IN OUR MOST
LEAST EDUCATIONAL
BACKUP STORY YET!

THE AWARD-WINNING ANTHOLOGY IS BACK, CELEBRATING THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY ACROSS THE FARTHEST REACHES OF THE DC UNIVERSE!

DC PRIDE 2024

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MAY

100 PAGES OF ALL-NEW STORIES!

THE BIG FREEZY

TINI HOWARD SCRIPT
NATACHA BUSTOS ART
NICK FILARDI COLORS

STEVE WANDS LETTERS
SWEENEY BOO COVER
LEIRIX VARIANT COVER
DANIEL HILLYARD 1:25 VARIANT COVER
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HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY
PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM

IT WAS DISTRESSINGLY EASY TA GET THE GIG WITH MR. FREEZE.

HE **ALREADY** WANTED TA HIRE ME--BUT THAT WAS BEFORE **I** KNEW ABOUT HIS PLANS. ONLY PROBLEM IS, HE MIGHT **KNOW THAT,** TOO, AND HE'S HIRIN' ME TA GET BACK AT ME...

...SO I GOTTA HOPE THAT HE **STILL** DOESN'T KNOW THAT **I** KNOW THAT **HE** MIGHT KNOW...THAT I KNOW...**WHATEVER.** THE POINT **IS**--

--MR. FREEZE WANTS **ME** TO TRAIN HIS **NEW CREW.** BUT I GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON THESE NEW KIDS. CAUSE IF **I** DON'T TRAIN 'EM--

--HE'LL GET SOMEONE EVEN **LESS PROFESSIONAL THAN ME!**

HARLEY QUINN...YOU MADE IT.

WHY SO CHILLY? YOU INVITED **ME!**

YOUR INITIAL RESPONSE LEFT **MUCH TO BE DESIRED.**

APOLOGIES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION! MY AMBITIONS NEED ROOM TO **GROW.** I SIMPLY CAN'T OPERATE OUT OF A **SECRET LAIR** ANY LONGER.

SNNRRRK-- DANG COLD WEATHER...

LET'S BEGIN-- I HAVEN'T TIME FOR **JAPES AND JOKES.** THE NEW RECRUITS AWAIT US.

WHO **DECORATES** BEFORE THEY GOT ALL THEIR **WALLS** UP?

ABOUT MY TRAINEES--I HAVE A REPUTATION OF EXCELLENCE TO PROTECT. I WON'T FUND IDIOTS IN HOCKEY MASKS ACTING FOOLISH.

I'VE CHOSEN THESE TWO FOR THEIR INTERESTS AND AMBITION. I'M QUITE CERTAIN YOU CAN MAKE... **SOMETHING** OF THEM.

AFTER ALL, LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED WITH **YOURSELF.**

...

...HEY!

HARMADA. REAL NAME: JENNIFER CROZIER, M.A. Her deep dives into the lost ships of the Northwest Passage have made her hungry for frozen treasure.

VAMPIRE SQUID, M.SC. REAL NAME: WILHELM TEUTHIS. HIS STUDIES OF ABYSSAL LIFE IN THE COLDEST PARTS OF THE SEA MAKE HIM A MASTERFUL HUNTER, AND HE'S AS HEARTLESS AS THE OCEAN.

I'VE GIVEN THEM TIME TO MAKE USE OF MY MANY ASSETS. THEY'VE EACH BEEN EQUIPPED WITH TOP GEAR.

GREETINGS, NEW RECRUITS. AS ASPIRING CRIMINALS, YOU MUST RECOGNIZE HARLEY QUINN. SHE'LL BE YOUR TRAINER UNTIL YOU'VE PROVEN YOURSELVES WORTHY.

SHEESH, THEY'RE BARELY OLDER THAN ***MY*** STUDENTS...

INDEED. WHEN I HEARD ABOUT YOUR NEW FORAYS INTO ***EDUCATION,*** I KNEW YOU WOULD BE IDEAL FOR THE POSITION.

DO NOT DISAPPOINT YOUR STUDENTS... ***OR ME.***

OKAY, WELL, FOR PROPER INTERDUCTIONS--

WE KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

SHE SOUNDS RUDE, BUT I SINK ZAT'S JUST PART OF HER GIMMICK.

VE'RE BOTH ***SO*** EXCITED TO BE TRAINED BY YOU. IT'S AN HONOR!

SPEAK FOR ***YOURSELF.***

I CAME HERE BECAUSE I'D HOPED TO BE TRAINED BY ***FREEZE HIMSELF***...BUT I ***SUPPOSE*** THIS COULD BE USEFUL.

YEAH, TRUST ME--YOUR FIRST MISSION, YOU DON'T WANT HIM THERE TO SEE ANYWAY.

EXPLAIN.

WELLLLL, YOU'RE GONNA EMBARRASS YOURSELVES.

I DON'T THINK ***SO, HARLEKIN.*** I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE A ***LESS POLISHED*** APPROACH, BUT WE ARE--

--GREEN. YER NEW.

NO MATTER HOW GOOD YA ***THINK*** YA ARE, IT DON'T MEAN A ***THING*** IF IT AIN'T IN THE ***RING.*** UNTIL YOU DO A MISSION IN THE FIELD, NONE OF IT MATTERS.

BUT I WANNA KNOW WHAT WE'RE WORKIN' WITH MORE THAN ANYTHING. C'MON, NEWBIES. SHOW MAMA WHATCHA GOT.

I VOULD ***LUFF*** TO.

PAP

BIOLIGHTS ON!

TARGETING STARBOARD--

IZZAT SUPPOSED TO ***DISTRACT*** ME? YOU'RE JUST LAYIN' DOWN A LANDING STRIP FOR MY HITS!

PING
PING
PING
...THINK YER GONNA NEED A *BIGGER BOAT.*
THAT ONE'S JUST GONNA *ANNOY* ME!
CRSSHHH
THE HAIRRIDAN! THAT WAS HER MAIDEN VOYAGE!
NO TIME FOR TEARS, HARMADA!
SEND THAT SHIP TO SALVAGE AND MOVE ON!
READYING LASHER TENTACLES--
DON'T *CALL OUT YOUR MOVES!* I KNOW IT *FEELS* COOL, BUT TRY *BANTER* INSTEAD!
UHH, YOU, *UMM...* CLOWN?
TRY AGAIN!
-DUMMKOPF!--
WHAM
YOU'RE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.
SANK YOU, SIR.
NOT *YOU. QUINN.* YOU REALLY DO KNOW HOW TO TEACH THEM.
WITH HER GUIDANCE, I THINK YOU'LL BE READY FOR YOUR FIRST MISSION IN...
...TWO NIGHTS TIME?
GULP
WHATEVER YOU SAY, BOSS!

ding ding

HARLEEN!

I HAVE LAID CLAIM TO A TABLE!

MAXIE! I'M SO SORRY I'M LATE, BUDDY.

I'VE BEEN A ***HUNDRED*** PLACES AT ONCE LATELY. I HAD CLASSES TO TEACH THIS MORNING, AND THEN, UH...MORE CLASSES. OF A DIFFERENT KIND.

WE COULD HAVE MET ANOTHER DAY?

NO WAY. TALKIN' TA YOU IS IMPORTANT TO ME. THIS IS WHERE I WANNA BE--I MEAN IT!

A COLLECTOR OF MY STORIES, ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOT THE FIRST MORTAL TO TRY!

WELL GO ON, BLESS ME WITH ONE!

LAST TIME WE TALKED, YOU TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR MORTAL WIFE, ***MARTINA.***

AH...HARLEEN. THAT IS A SAD TALE INDEED. BUT YOU HAVE ASKED, SO I SHOULD TELL...

"SOMETIME AFTER I CAME FROM ***OLYMPUS*** TO GOTHAM, I CONFESS-- I WAS WAYLAID BY THAT THING THAT ALWAYS FASCINATES ME--

"--A ***BEAUTIFUL, BRILLIANT*** MORTAL WOMAN."

"AFTER THAT NIGHT, THE FATES PLACED US TOGETHER AGAIN AND AGAIN.

"WE FELL IN LOVE--HER A RED-BLOODED MORTAL AND ME WITH THE PASSION OF A GOD.

"SOON ENOUGH, WE WERE MARRIED.

"WHEN NO CHILD CAME, SHE TOLD ME THAT WAS WHAT THE FATES HAD LONG SAID--THAT IT WASN'T POSSIBLE FOR HER. BUT I WAS A ***GOD IN LOVE.*** ***ANYTHING*** WAS POSSIBLE.

"THEN, THE ORACLES SPOKE--SHE ***WOULD*** BEAR A CHILD. THE SON OF A GOD. THERE WAS NOTHING BUT LIGHT, EVEN IN GOTHAM CITY.

"BUT IT WAS FATE. MARTINA HAD NEVER BEEN WITH CHILD. THE ORACLES HAD BEEN WRONG. SHE WAS DYING.

IT'S VERY RARE, BUT IT CAN HAPPEN WITH CERTAIN KINDS OF CANCERS.

THE HORMONAL IMBALANCE CAUSES A ***FALSE*** POSITIVE...

"AS SHE FADED, I GAVE HER ALL OF THE LOVE THAT I WOULD HAVE GIVEN OUR CHILD--ALL THE LOVE I HAD BEEN ***SAVING*** IN MY HEART TO GIVE HER FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE.

"THEY WERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND ***PAINFUL*** MONTHS I EVER SPENT AWAY FROM MY OLYMPUS.

"THE LAST MONTHS I WOULD STILL LOVE THIS WORLD."

"ONCE SHE WAS GONE, I SAW NO REASON TO RESTRAIN MY ***GODHOOD*** ANY LONGER.

"IT MAY BE MY RUIN."

OH ***MAXIE***...YOU FOUND OUT SHE WAS ***DYING*** FROM A POSITIVE ***PREGNANCY TEST?***

THAT'S ABOUT THE WORST THING I EVER HEARD.

I THINK YOU NEED A HUG. AND...ANOTHER ***NIGHT OUT.***

OH? I GATHERED FROM OUR PREVIOUS JAUNT THAT WE WERE ON... THIN ICE.

THIN ICE... NOW ***THAT'S*** AN IDEA.

I BEEN WORKIN' FOR FREEZE, TRAININ' THESE TWO YOUNG ***VILLAIN***-TYPES THAT NEED A BIT OF SCARIN' STRAIGHT.

THING IS... THEY'RE NOT MUCH OLDER THAN SOME OF MY STUDENTS.

I DON'T WANT 'EM GETTIN' ***HURT.***

WHAT I NEED IS AN ICONIC GOTHAM BADDIE TO SCARE THE EVER-LOVIN' DAYLIGHTS OUTTA THEM--BUT ***NOT REALLY HURT 'EM.***

YOU NEED THE BOOST, AND I NEED THESE BABY BADS BACK TO FREEZE IN ONE PIECE. WHADDYA SAY?

YOU CARE ***SO MUCH*** FOR ALL STUDENTS.

YOU HAVE GAINED MY FAVOR ONCE MORE! I WILL DO THIS ALONGSIDE YOU.

YESSSS! I'M SO SMAAART!

THE NEXT NIGHT.

WE'RE STEALING FROM A *HOCKEY RINK?*

YEAH-- IT SEEMS LIKE A SILLY PLACE TO TARGET BUT... IT'S KIND OF A SAFETY THING. IT'S PART OF WORKIN' IN GOTHAM.

HOW SO?

THINK OF IT LIKE...HUNTIN' GROUNDS.

YOU WOULDN'T STEAL FROM THE PUNKIN' PATCH UNLESS YOU WANTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO *SCARECROW.*

YOU WOULDN'T HIT *FLIPPERS COLLECTIBLE COINS* UNLESS YOU WERE BOTHERIN'--

TWO-FACE.

NOW YOU'RE GETTIN' IT.

BESIDES, THERE'S LOTS TO BE HAD IN THE HOCKEY RINK. MONEY, CREDIT CARDS ON FILE, AND--

--THE *MANLY CUP.*

STEALING THAT'LL BE A NICE BOLD STATEMENT--*FREEZE IS BACK!* HE'LL LOVE THAT. RIGHT NOW HIS BASE LOOKS LIKE *CRAP.* IT'S JUST A BUNCHA SCAFFOLDING.

WE'LL STICK IT IN THE LOBBY.

DO WE GO IN AFTER YOU?

NOT YET. YOU WANT ME GOIN' IN FIRST TO DISARM ANY TRAPS AN' CAMERAS.

YEAH, THAT WAS A LIE.

PSST-- MAXIEEEEE!

SHHKKKKSHHH

YOU REAAAAADY?

HA-HAH!

NOW MAXIE, REMEMBER. THEY'RE ***BABY BADS.*** JUST GIVE 'EM A GOOD SCARE, LIKE AT THE THEATER, BUT WITHOUT THE BELLS AND WHISTLES. SO UH...USE YOUR CHEST HAIR OR SOMETHIN'.

YES.

HARLEY! WILL YOU NOT FIGHT ***BY MY SIDE?***

ENNH... I KINDA... ***BROUGHT*** THE NEW ONES HERE. I GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON 'EM AND LOOK IMPARTIAL.

ONE'S ***HARMADA*** AND ONE'S ***VAMPIRE SQUID.*** IF YOU CAN'T TELL WHO'S WHO, UH...LET THEM KNOW, THAT'S GOOD FEEDBACK. IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS!

VERY WELL!

ALL CLEAR!

SSSS... THE COLD. I CAN FEEL MYSELF BECOMINK MORE *ALIVE.*

AND OUR ENEMIES... BECOMING *DEAD!*

SEE, THAT'S GOOD BANTER! WRITE THAT DOWN.

C'MON! IT'S THIS WAY--

PERFECT!

OH NO! THE MANLY CUP?! WHO COULD HAVE BEATEN US TO I--

ZZZARRKK

AUUUGH!

ACH DU LIEBER!

IT'S MAXIE ZEUS!

OH SO IT IS, HEY, *WOW!*

KNEEL, SQUID MAN!

WHAM

I AM BROTHER TO ***POSEIDON.*** SHALL I SEND WORD YOU WISH TO CHALLENGE ***HIM,*** TOO, SQUID MAN?!

N-NO!

HEY, JENNIFER? YOU OKAY?

NNNUH...

HARLEY!

HELP ME!

UHHHHH...

WOOOO

SAVED BY THE WORST BELL EVER.

EVERYBODY, GET DOWN!

IT'S THE #$%*@%@ COPS.

MOVE, MOVE, MOVE!

THESE AREN'T JUST GOONS, THEY'RE CRIMINAL MASTERMINDS!

TSSSHH

KOFF... MAXIE... SQUID...?

TOOOK

AAA--!

--HARMADA!

NONONONO. THERE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE **COPS.**

THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN--THIS WAS JUST US SHARPENING OUR CLAWS!

FREEZE, QUINN.

PULASKI--

HEY, GET YER MITTS OFFA ME!

TOO EASY.

WHAKK

UNH!

THAT'S ASSAULTING AN OFFICER, QUINN!

YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR REAL!

I CAN'T LEAVE THE NEWBIES OR MAXIE, BUT I CAN'T FIGHT THE GCPD ON MY OWN--

GET OUT HERE, FREEZE, I NEED BACKUP! YOUR NEW PUPPIES GOT ARRESTED!

I CAN'T BUST 'EM OUT ON MY OWN, BUT IF YOU SEND A FEW SNOWMOBILES, I CAN MEET YOU AT THE JAIL AND--

HMMHMM HNNEH...

AAAAHAHAHAH!

HARLEY QUINN, EVER THE **FOOL.** MY PLAN NEVER NEEDED **YOU!** IT NEEDED...

...A DISTRACTION.

I DON'T CARE THAT THOSE TRAINEES **FAILED.**

I'LL FIND NEW ONES! I JUST KNEW THAT IT WAS THE ANGLE TO **MELT** YOUR HEART.

"I NEEDED A MISSION BIG ENOUGH TO **DISTRACT** THE WHOLE GCPD TONIGHT, AND TIPPING THEM OFF TO THE VILLAINOUS RETURN OF HARLEY QUINN WAS THE PERFECT EXCUSE.

"AS YOU MAY KNOW, GOTHAM UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS WERE MOVING A VERY RARE, ONE-OF-A-KIND SAMPLE TONIGHT."

"WHY WOULD I KNOW THAT?"

FROZEN TRANSPO

POLICE

POLICE

"AN **ISOTOPE OF FROZEN WATER** FOUND ONLY IN THE DEPTHS OF SPACE...

"**ICE**-ALPHA."

"TAKEN FROM A COMET IN FLIGHT, IT FREEZES EVEN THE ***WATER VAPOR*** IN THE VERY ***AIR AROUND IT*** TO CREATE MASSIVE QUANTITIES OF ICE WHEN EXPOSED.

"UNTIL A RECENT PROBE, IT HAD NEVER BEEN BROUGHT TO EARTH IN SOLID FORM...

"TONIGHT, IT WAS PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE, EN ROUTE TO A NEW LABORATORY. NOW...SHE IS ***MINE.***"

SO THIS WHOLE THING WAS A SETUP, JUST A BIG BALONEY DISTRACTION...

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHAM FROZEN TRANSPORT

"...SO YOU COULD ***CARJACK A SPACE POPSICLE?!***"

"...AFTER A FASHION, YES.

"DON'T YOU SEE, QUINN?

UNIVERSITY OF GOTHAM FROZEN TRANSPORT

PANK

PANK

"THE VILLAINS THAT ***DECLINE*** YOUR HELP AREN'T THE ONES TO BE AFRAID OF.

"IT'S THE ONES WHO ***ACCEPT*** IT.

"THE TRULY WICKED AMONG US WILL ***USE*** YOU FOR OUR METHODS.

YES!

*REMEMBER **MAXIE**. REMEMBER YOUR **STUDENTS**.*

NO ONE USES ME, FREEZE!

YOU CAN'T LET THOSE NEWBIES ***ROT*** IN PRISON, YOU FROZEN FREAK!

HANG UP ON HIM, HARLEY.

FORGET ABOUT HIM, HARLEY.

DROP TO THE GROUND AND LICK THE ***FLOOR,*** QUINN.

CACLICK

...ALL THOSE ARRESTS...LOTTA PAPERWORK. SHOULD YOU BE HERE CHASIN' LI'L OL' ME?

SAVE THE BANTER FOR LOCKUP.

OR YOUR ***FUNERAL.***

HOW'M I GONNA TELL JOKES AT MY OWN FUNERAL? HOW COME COPS ARE ***NEVER*** GOOD AT JOKES?

I'M ***SERIOUS.***

THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE FOR YOU, QUINN.

YOU BOUNCE BACK FROM A LOT, BUT THAT FALL WILL ***PULVERIZE*** YOU. YOU'VE GOT NOWHERE TO GO.

IF YOU'LL LET ME REACH FOR MY PHONE, I CAN TEXT SUPERMAN ***REAL*** QUICK AND--

BANG

SO, YOU CAN'T TAKE YOURSELF SERIOUSLY, HUH? NO PROBLEM. WE GOT A LOT LIKE YOU IN GOTHAM.

...WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ***SAYING*** THAT...

HOW ABOUT THOSE NERVOUS LITTLE VILLAINS IN COSTUMES BACK THERE THAT YOU ***ABANDONED?*** GONNA LEAVE THEM WITH THEIR CHARGES TO ROT IN BLACKGATE? OR ***ARKHAM?***

HOW ABOUT YOUR FRIEND WITH A ***RECORD,*** MAXIE ZEUS?

HE'S ***ABSOLUTELY*** GOING TO ARKHAM. UNLESS...

I BRING ***YOU*** IN.

I ALREADY GOT THE OKAY TO LET THE TWO FIRST-TIMERS GO, AND I CAN STICK ZEUS IN HOLDING WHILE THE JUDGE FIGURES OUT IF HE'S FIT TO STAND TRIAL.

I MEAN, I TURNED MYSELF IN TO THE BROTHERS EYE AND THAT CAME OUT ALL RIGHT...

CLINK

I ONLY TRUST THE COPS **SLIGHTLY** LESS.

THIS OL' SONG AND DANCE.

POLICE GPD

POLICE

I ALWAYS FORGET HOW MUCH **PHOTO TAKING** GOES INTA GETTING ARRESTED.

ALWAYS MY MOST FAMOUS PICS.

6'0"
5'10"
5'4"
5'2"

GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
QUINZEL
HARLEEN
5318008

ALWAYS MY WORST.

6'0"
5'10"
5'8"
5'6"
5'4"
5'0"

GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
QUINZEL
HARLEEN
5318008

I WONDER IF I'LL GET MY PHONE CALL BEFORE IVY FIGURES OUT I GOT BOOKED?

WHAT IN THE WORLD--?!

IT'S THE BUILDING *MR. FREEZE* BOUGHT!

"IT'S--IT'S *GROWING!*"

FOR YOU, NORA.

WHEREVER YOU ARE.

CLINK

CREAK

"ALL THE SCAFFOLDIN' IS FROSTIN' OVER WITH SNOW!"

CRACK

CREAAAAK

IT'S A SKYSCRAPER!

NO, GOTHAMITES.

THIS IS MR. FREEZE. AND THIS...

...IS MY ICE-SCRAPER.

D&M

NEXT: FROM ROBBIN' TO ROBIN!

WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?

DO NOT BE *ALARMED,* MISS QUINN.

AM I SUPPOSED TO *FIGHT* YOU?

'CAUSE I'LL *DO IT!*

YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR... THAT THING YOU *DID* OR *DIDN'T* DO!

HA! FIGHT ME? GOOD HEAVENS, *NO,* I SHOULD SAY NOT.

I'M YOUR *HEAD-MASTER.*

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR YOUR VERY FIRST DAY AT...

Quinntessence Academy of Vice and Virtue!

THE PREMIER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR THE *SUPERPOWEREDLY INCLINED* YOUNG PERSON.

"YOUNG PERSON"!

You know what, I'll take it.

WHEN DO I GET ONE OF *THOSE?!*

WE'VE NO TIME TO WASTE, MISS QUINN.

Steal it under cover of darkness, roger that.

WE MUST GET YOU *WEIGHED* AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

COME ALONG!

Weigh--

--me?

Whoa, we got here so fast!

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

WHAT'S UP WITH THE CHECKERBOARD DRESS CODE, TEACH?

AT ***QUINNTESSENCE ACADEMY,*** STUDENTS ARE DIVIDED INTO ONE OF TWO DEPARTMENTS.

FOOD DRIVE

CTIMS OF THE MARSHMALLOW INCIDENT!

DONATIONS

THOSE WEIGHTED HEAVILY FOR ***VIRTUE*** ARE ASSIGNED TO THE GOLDEN EAGLE ASSOCIATION.

AND THOSE WEIGHTED HEAVILY FOR ***VICE*** ARE IN THE WEST NILE MOSQUITO SOCIETY FOR ***RAT BASTARDS.***

OF COURSE, WE RESPECT BOTH OF THESE DEPARTMENTS ***EQUALLY.***

GIANT ARSHMAL

WHICH ONE GETS ME THE ***UNICORN?***

IS IT THE ***RAT BASTARDS?***

IS MY ***UNICORN*** A ***RAT BASTARD?***

YOUR DEPARTMENT WILL BE DETERMINED BY--

--THE Scales of Justice!

BAD GOOD

PASS.

EVERYONE IS WATCHING.

I AIN'T MUCH OF A *JOINER.*

I'LL JUST TAKE MY UNICORN *BASTARD* AND BE ON MY WAY.

EVERYONE IS WATCHING, MISS QUINN.

OKAY, OKAY, *yeesh.*

Creepy.

DING!

WELL, THAT'S NOT MUCH OF A SURPRISE--

--huh?

DING!

DING! DING!

DID I *WIN?*

DING! DING! DING!

You're not the first one to confound the scale, Miss Quinn, and you won't be the last.

You'll have to meet the students of each department and decide for yourself where you belong.

WHO SAID THAT? WHERE AM I? WHERE'S MY *PRIZE?*

I HATE IT HERE!

Shhh!

DON'T SHUSH ME!

AREN'T YOU JAMOKES SUPPOSED TO BE *NICE?*

Shhh!

WE'RE TRYING TO STUDY!

YEAH, NOT ALL OF US ALREADY HAVE OUR DOCTORATES, YA KNOW!

THE FATE OF THE WORLD RESTS ON OUR ABILITY TO BE THE BEST WE CAN BE, TO HELP THOSE WHO CANNOT HELP THEM-SELVES, TO--

OH MY GOD, *NERD!* LIGHTEN UP!

WHERE DO THE *BADASS* KIDS HANG OUT?

YOU MEAN PEOPLE LIKE *YOU?*

SNAP

Behind the Wacky Weapon Woodshed.

OKAY, NOW I ***KNOW*** THAT ONE WASN'T AN ACCIDENT.

When I get my hands on that teleporting nerd...

...and then figure out how ***space and time*** work--

HALT!

WACKY WEAPON WOODSHED

WHO GOES THERE?

I HEARD YOU GUYS WERE ***BADASS?***

DEPENDS.

IS ***SKIPPING CLASS*** TO PLAY ***QUANTUM CHESS*** BADASS?

Uh--

LISTEN, HERE ARE THE RULES: WHITE GOES FIRST, UNLESS WHITE'S OPENING MOVE INVOLVED PUTTING A PIECE IN A ***SUPERPOSITION*** IN THE PAST, OR IF WHITE'S KNIGHT IS ENTANGLED WITH BLACK'S BISHOP, IN WHICH CASE--

Holy crapola.

NERD!

Is no one actually ***cool*** in high school?

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

SHOULDN'T YOU ALL BE IN *CLASS?*

YES, *PROFESSOR IVY.*

WHAT GROUP ARE *YOU* IN?

SHE'S THE HEAD OF OUR HOUSE.

HEAD OF THE *RAT BASTARDS.*

AND THE TOUGHEST, *MEANEST* TEACHER--

I PICK THAT ONE!

I PICK RAT BASTARDS, NO TAKE-BACKS!

TIME FOR US TO SHOW THESE KIDS A THING OR TWO ABOUT BEING *BAD*, RIGHT, RED?

UNFORTUNATELY, MISS QUINN--

--YOU'RE LATE TO MY CLASS.

AGAIN!

BUT TODAY IS MY FIRST DAY!

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR *FINAL PRESENTATION.*

WHAT EVEN *IS* THIS CLASS?!

THIS IS *ADVANCED MUSTACHE TWIRLING!*

BUT I DON'T *HAVE* A MUSTACHE!

SHAMEFUL!

AS YOU CAN SEE, YOU'RE THE *ONLY ONE* WHO'S *UNPREPARED* FOR CLASS!

I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A FAILING GRADE!

FAIL QUEEN

Noooo!

WHOA!

AWAKE AND BACK IN GOOD OL' *REALITY!*

SUCK ON THAT, SCHOOL FOR... *suckers.*

Oof, no quips before coffee.

I SHOULDA KNOWN IT WAS A DREAM RIGHT AWAY...

...AS IF I DON'T KNOW HOW TO *TWIRL MY OWN MUSTACHE!*

XO PAM

Harley Quinn and the Scales of Justice!

script
Grace Ellis
art and colors
Hannah Templer
letters
Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou
assistant editor
James Reid
editor
Arianna Turturro
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The End!

DC Comics Presents

RAMONA & ME

Brittany Holzherr Writer **June Brigman** Penciller **Roy Richardson** Inker **Trish Mulvihill** Colorist **Janice Chiang** Letterer

ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT WORKING IN COMICS IS DISCOVERING ASPECTS OF ITS HISTORY YOU NEVER KNEW BEFORE. SOME PEOPLE SAY WOMEN ARE FINALLY MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN, BUT THEY COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG. WOMEN HAVE ***ALWAYS*** BEEN IN COMICS-- YOU JUST NEEDED TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.

BACK IN 2017, OUR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, MARIE JAVINS, FOUND HERSELF AT BALTIMORE COMIC-CON IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LEGENDARY ***RAMONA FRADON,*** WHO WAS DELIGHTING CROWDS OF FANS WITH HER COMMISSIONS.

RAMONA WAS JUST ABOUT TO TURN 91 AND HADN'T LOST A STEP IN HER ART. MARIE AND I IMMEDIATELY AGREED THAT RAMONA SHOULD BE WORKING AT DC AGAIN. AN EMAIL LED TO A PHONE CALL AND THE REST WAS HISTORY.

ALWAYS PROMPT BUT HER OWN WORST CRITIC, RAMONA CONSISTENTLY APOLOGIZED FOR HER "LAZINESS" EVEN AS SHE WOULD IMMEDIATELY TURN IN SKETCHES FOR REVIEW ALONG WITH A HILARIOUS POLITICAL CARTOON. I COULDN'T HELP BUT RUN THE ART AROUND THE OFFICE AND SHARE IN LAUGHS WITH MY COWORKERS AS WE MARVELED AT HER TALENT.

COVID CAME AND TURNED THE WORLD AND COMICS UPSIDE DOWN. AS MUCH AS THE PANDEMIC TORE US APART, IT ALSO BROUGHT SOME OF US CLOSER, SERVING AS A REMINDER OF HOW IMPORTANT COMPANIONSHIP IS.

RAMONA AND I STAYED IN TOUCH AND EVENTUALLY SHE INVITED ME OVER. IN ANTICIPATION, I ASKED HER IF SHE MISSED ANY FOOD FROM HER TIME LIVING IN MANHATTAN. SHE IMMEDIATELY ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC DESSERT. TO SATISFY HER FAMOUS SWEET TOOTH, I DROVE UPSTATE WITH SFOGLIATELLA IN HAND.

RAMONA GREETED ME LIKE A ***LONG-LOST FRIEND,*** WHICH LED TO MANY MORE VISITS. WE IMMEDIATELY BONDED OVER OUR SHARED LOVE OF COMIC STRIPS AND THE CITY, BUT SOON THE CONVERSATION MOVED PAST COMICS AND ONTO LIFE IN GENERAL.

I WAS DELIGHTED TO DISCOVER THAT RAMONA WASN'T JUST AN ARTIST WITH HER PEN BUT WITH HER ***WORDS*** TOO. HER STORIES PAINTED A PICTURE OF A LIFE LIVED TO ITS FULLEST. AFTER HOURS OF TALKING--WITH OCCASIONAL PAUSES TO GIVE PETS TO HER DOG, CHARLIE--I ALWAYS LEFT RAMONA'S HOME INSPIRED AND REINVIGORATED TO MAKE MY MARK ON THE WORLD OF COMICS LIKE SHE DID.

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2024, RAMONA ANNOUNCED HER FORMAL ***RETIREMENT*** FROM DRAWING AFTER SEVENTY-PLUS YEARS IN THE BUSINESS.

DURING OUR LAST VISIT, I STRUGGLED TO FIND THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY GOODBYE TO A FRIEND, BUT HER WARM SMILE SERVED AS A COMFORT. WE SPOKE OF THE FUTURE AND HOW EXCITED SHE WAS TO FINALLY SEE ***METAMORPHO*** ON THE BIG SCREEN. I'M SORRY SHE WILL NEVER GET THE CHANCE, BUT I KNOW THE PARTS OF HERSELF SHE POURED INTO HER BELOVED CO-CREATION WILL SHINE THROUGH.

RAMONA WOULD ALWAYS REMARK THAT WOMEN IN COMICS WERE LARGELY OVERLOOKED, BUT WITH STORIES LIKE THIS, I HOPE THEIR MEMORY AND CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE KEPT ALIVE FOR YEARS TO COME.

SEE YOU IN THE FUNNY PAPERS, RAMONA.

"Mom saw the whole world through her creative imagination. She could make faces and characters from trees or rocks, was awed by light playing on a wall, and saw patterns that I would never have seen. Drawing was her anchor and her best friend. She had beautiful, capable hands that could draw, build, upholster, cook, craft, and comfort. She was my Wonder Woman, for sure." – Amy Fradon

For more quotes remembering Ramona, please visit: DC.com/remembering-ramona

UP, UP, AND AWAY!

Debuting in
JUNE

MY ADVENTURES WITH SUPERMAN

Written by
My Adventures with Superman
producer/writer
JOSIE CAMPBELL

Art by
PABLO M COLLAR

Covers by
My Adventures with Superman
character designers
CARLI SQUITIERI
and
LI CREE

A six-issue comic book series bridging seasons one and two of the hit **[adult swim]** show

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BATMAN: GOTHAM by GASLIGHT

THE · KRYPTONIAN · AGE

INTERVIEW WITH ANDY DIGGLE

DC returns to Elseworlds with an all-new lineup of series starring DC's greatest heroes and villains, in fantastic settings far beyond the DC Universe. Beginning in June with *Batman: Gotham by Gaslight – The Kryptonian Age*, the sequel to the Elseworlds classic *Gotham by Gaslight* by Brian Augustyn and Mike Mignola, fans are invited into familiar and fresh takes on the heroes you know...in worlds you don't. DC Nation sat down with Andy Diggle, the writer of *Batman: Gotham by Gaslight – The Kryptonian Age*, to discuss the series.

Why do you think the original *Gotham by Gaslight* has endured and is still being discovered by fans after so many years?

The Gothic setting of the 19th century is just such a great fit for Batman. He really lends himself to that shadowy, smog-choked, gaslit world. Mike Mignola's art really leans into Batman's primal, monster-lurking-in-the-dark vibe. It's perfect. You can strip away all the modern high-tech gadgets, and Batman is still Batman. He's timeless.

This story expands the *Gotham by Gaslight* world beyond Gotham. How is this specific 19th-century setting informing the formation of the Justice League?

I'm having a lot of fun reinventing iconic heroes and villains, and I'm thrilled that DC is giving us so much creative freedom. That's what Elseworlds is all about, after all. For example, Paradise Island isn't located where you might expect. I'm having a blast cooking up the new secret history of the Amazons, and how it intersects with the lost legacy of the Kryptonians. Some of the heroes will be quite far apart geographically, and it won't be immediately apparent how all their plots intersect. John Constantine is one of the people who figure out how to connect the dots.

What does the subtitle *The Kryptonian Age* mean in regards to the story you're telling?

I don't want to spoil anything up front, but it's revealed in the first issue that the Kryptonian Age is an archaeological fringe theory of an ancient lost civilization like Atlantis. It's not taken seriously by respectable scholars...until things start getting weird. The Carrington Event solar flare of 1859, and the Great Meteor of 1860, triggered a sequence of events that comes to a head in 1893, when something very ancient starts to...wake up.

What has the collaboration with artist Leandro Fernandez been like?

Leo's an absolute joy to work with. Sometimes you just click with an artist. We met in London to discuss the project, and it was immediately clear that we both wanted to approach it the same way. He just gets where I'm coming from, and his art brings it to life more beautifully than I could even have imagined. Gorgeous work. He's a natural-born storyteller.

DON'T MISS
***BATMAN: GOTHAM BY GASLIGHT – THE KRYPTONIAN AGE* #1,**
ON SALE THIS DECEMBER!

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